United Nations S/2018/841

Security Council

Distr.: General
12 September 2018

Original: English

Letter dated 12 September 2018 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General

In my capacity as President of the Security Council, I am forwarding to you a letter dated 7 September 2018 (see annex) from the Chair of the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict established by Security Council resolution 1612 (2005), based on the Working Group's conclusions adopted on 7 August 2018 (S/AC.51/2018/2).

(*Signed*) Nikki R. **Haley**
President of the Security Council

18-15233 (E) 050219

Please recycle

Annex

Letter dated 7 September 2018 from the Chair of the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict addressed to the Secretary-General

At its 72nd formal meeting, on 5 July 2018, the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict examined the sixth report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (S/2018/502), which was introduced by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict. At its 73rd meeting, on 7 August 2018, the Working Group adopted its conclusions on children and armed conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (S/AC.51/2018/2).

In follow up to the recommendations of the Working Group and subject to and consistent with applicable international law and relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 1612 (2005), 1882 (2009), 1998 (2011), 2068 (2012), 2143 (2014), 2225 (2015) and 2427 (2018), I am entrusted, in my capacity as Chair of the Working Group, with:

(a) Requesting you to ensure that the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) and the United Nations Children's Fund, as well as other relevant United Nations agencies, continue to strengthen their efforts to support, in line with their respective mandates, the Congolese authorities in fighting impunity, including through the strengthening of the criminal justice system, in implementing the standard operating procedures for age assessment in the national armed and security forces to prevent the recruitment and use of children in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in mainstreaming the specific needs of children affected by armed conflict and the protection of their rights in all disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes, including through the development of a gender- and age-sensitive disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process, and in security sector reform, in providing long-term rehabilitation and reintegration programmes and opportunities to children formerly associated with national armed forces and non-State armed groups and training of the national armed and security forces on the protection of children, in bolstering the education and health system and in establishing standard operating procedures for the handover of children formerly associated with national armed forces and groups and for the protection of children in the course of military operations, and to give full attention to violations against children in the application of the human rights due diligence policy on United Nations support to non-United Nations security forces;

(b) Further requesting you to ensure that the United Nations country task force on monitoring and reporting continues its advocacy for the release and reintegration of children associated with non-State armed groups and national armed forces and of children detained on charges related to association with non-State armed groups, and prioritizes its efforts to ensure that the aspects of the Action Plan relating to sexual violence and other grave violations against children by the national armed and security forces, signed on 4 October 2012 by the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, are fully implemented, and to engage with non-State armed groups, with a view to developing action plans to end and prevent the recruitment and use of children, killing and maiming, and attacks on schools and hospitals, in violation of applicable international law, as well as rape and other forms of sexual violence against children and to address other violations and abuses committed against children, secure concrete commitments and advocate for appropriate response mechanisms, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

(c) Requesting you to ensure the effectiveness of the monitoring and reporting mechanism on children and armed conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and of the dedicated child protection component of MONUSCO, including by ensuring that sufficient child protection capacities are allocated to the Mission, in line with its mandate, recognizing the security and logistical constraints on monitoring and reporting activities;

(d) Noting the various measures taken by MONUSCO and troop- and police-contributing countries to combat sexual exploitation and abuse, which have led to a reduction in reported cases, while expressing grave concern that sexual exploitation and abuse of children by peacekeepers continues to be a serious protection concern, calling for the continued implementation by United Nations peacekeeping operations of your zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse, as well as ensuring full compliance of their personnel with the United Nations code of conduct, and reiterating the Working Group's request to you to continue to take all necessary measures in this regard and to keep the Security Council informed.

(*Signed*) Olof **Skoog**
Chair
Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict